

Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development

Community Development Block Grant Program



Deval Patrick, Governor

Greg Bialecki, Secretary

Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary

Application Training for:

Community Development Fund I

Community Development Fund II

Mini-Entitlements

Agenda

- Overview
- Application
- Community Development Strategy
- Thresholds/National Objective
- Project/program application packets
- Evaluation
- On-Line Application Form
- Q and A

Eligible Applicants

Municipalities under 50,000 and

Municipalities that do not receive CDBG funds directly from HUD

Apply only through chief elected official

- Must be authorized to obligate the City or Town

Community-Wide Needs Score – 35 points

- Mass. CDBG calculates score from a set of criteria
- population demographics, economic conditions, the community's fiscal condition and community development indicators
 - see One Year Plan for further explanation

Mass CDBG Program Components

Community Development Fund I

\$15,535,615 available

Community-wide
needs score \geq 25 pts

Single and joint
applicants

Required to target

Community Development Fund II

\$2,700,000 available

Community-wide needs
score \leq 26 pts

CDF II communities may
join with CDF I

Required to target

Mass CDBG Program Components

Mini-Entitlement Program

\$8,100,000 available

Required to target

Multiple activities

Community Development Strategy

Grant Award Amounts

CDF I & CDF II

Category

Maximum Grant Award CDF I / CDF II

Single Community

\$ 800,000 / \$700,000

Single Community w/multiple
targeted physical activities

\$ 900,000 / \$800,000

Two or Three Communities
(regional)

\$1,000,000 / \$900,000

Four or more Communities
(regional)

\$1,100,000 / \$1,000,000

Minimum

All (except planning)

\$ 100,000

Planning or design only

\$ 10,000

Grant Award Amounts

Mini-Entitlement

- Maximum Award is \$ 900,000
- 9 Communities designated for FY 2014
- Required to target all activities

Due dates CDF I & II and Mini-Entitlement Applications

- Applications for CDF I & CDF II and Mini-Entitlements due Friday, February 14, 2014 at 11:59:59 PM via Intelligrants
- 1 hard copy of application cover page, joint authorization page with *original* signatures of appropriate CEO due Friday, February 14, 2014 at DHCD by 5:00 pm or close of business – *No other documents*

On-line Application

Web-based application forms can be found at <http://madhcd.intelligrants.com> (will be available soon)

DHCD will post notice on the DHCD web site

New Users

Follow instructions for “New Users”

Contact Carl Monaco @ (617) 573 1418 for assistance in accessing the system

Questions concerning the application should be directed to program staff

Application Threshold

Community Development Strategy

- Discussed at public meeting at least 1 month prior to application due date
- Include Strategy in application – Unless already approved
- Must identify/describe geographic target area (s)
- Project/Program must be included in Strategy
- Reflects local priorities
- Up to 7 pages
- Evaluated for adequacy – see Action Plan pp 6 and 7

Application Threshold Timely Expenditure

For previous Grantees:

- 100% of funds from 2011 or earlier
- 80% of funds from 2012
- Procedural clearances complete from 2013

Funds may be returned to meet these requirements

Component Selection – Project Packets

- Top of the Forms page
- 5 component selections – (project packets)
- 1 project per component
- Packet contains:

Project description - See Application Guidance

Threshold questions

Competitive (scored) questions

Budget

Threshold Questions

- Is the project eligible?
- Does the project meet a national objective?
- Is the project targeted?
- Is the project consistent with the Community Development Strategy?
- Is the project consistent with the Sustainable Development principles?

Threshold Questions - What's Eligible?

- Title I of Housing & Community Development Act of 1974, as amended
- Housing assistance
- Public facilities
- Architectural/Engineering Design*
- Infrastructure
- Planning
- Public social services

*Risk of repayment if project construction not complete within five (5) years

Project Threshold National Objectives

1. Benefit to low- and moderate- income persons
or
2. Prevention or elimination of slums and blight
or
3. Urgent need

Project Threshold National Objective (LMI)

Low and moderate income benefit

Five ways: depends upon the project

1. Area-wide low/moderate income
2. Housing activity
3. Limited clientele – no micro-enterprise activities in CDF
4. Job creation or retention – not in CDF
5. Planning

Project Threshold National Objective (LMI)

1. Area-wide low/moderate income (LMI)

- Service area must be 51% LMI households
- Primarily residential
- Survey no older than 3 years
- Copy of blank survey document
- Summary survey results
- Street by street data
- Parcel Map of Service Area including vacant land
- If vacant land, describe future use for 5-7 years
- Explain methodology for geographic boundaries
- Census Data

Project Threshold National Objective (LMI)

2. Housing activity

Demonstrate that 51% of the units in a structure are LMI households

3. Limited clientele

- a. groups presumed: elderly*, battered spouses, severely disabled adults, people with AIDS, abused children, homeless people, illiterate people, migrant workers
- b. potential (LMI) beneficiaries have already been documented
- c. can conclude that majority of users will be LMI
- d. groups that can be documented to be LMI

Project Threshold National Objective (LMI)

4. Job creation or retention

Most Economic Development activities no longer accepted under CDF

5. Planning

The planning project, if implemented, will meet a LMI National Objective

Project Threshold National Objective

Slums & Blight - Area-wide or Spot

- Area-wide basis
- Submitted *no later* than 30 days prior to application due date
- Once approved by DHCD in FY 2007 or later, an inventory / target area is valid for 10 years
- Spot blight - only health & safety issues can be addressed

To demonstrate area-wide slums and blight a community needs:

- A declaration and description of area or site by local official; Chapters 121 A and B
- At least 25% of properties experience one or more of conditions on page 11 of the guidance
- Map delineating target area/Written description
- Current parcel inventory of buildings/properties and infrastructure
- Appendix J - summary table
- Appendix K - DHCD's property and infrastructure rating sheet
- Proposed project will address conditions that contribute to the deterioration of the area

Slums & Blight – Spot basis

- Limited to addressing conditions detrimental to public health and welfare
- Provide description of site
- Must indicate/document serious health and safety concerns

Project Threshold

Nat'l Objective - Critical Need

- Also: urgent need
- Catastrophe, natural disaster
- Situation not known prior to 18 months of the application
- No other financial resources exist
- DHCD approval necessary before application is submitted

Threshold Questions

Targeted Activities

- All FY 2013 applications must propose activities that are targeted to a geographic area.
- Description of the target area(s) and how the boundaries were determined. Why does this geographic area constitute a target area in the community?
- May design housing rehab programs so that 20% of funds may be used for *emergencies* outside of the target area

Project Threshold: Senior Centers

- Site control under the Board of Selectmen or Mayor
- Bid-ready plans and specifications
 - One set of plans as attachment in application
 - Letter from Arch/Eng attesting that complete set of specs is prepared and bid-ready
- All other financial resources, if necessary, in place at time of application
- Must request elderly low/mod income data from DHCD

Project Thresholds: Architectural Barrier Removal

Completion and Submission copy of ADA Self-Evaluations Survey and Transition Plan

Programmatic removal of barriers must be explored before requesting CDBG funds – discuss in project description

ONLY relevant barrier removal work may be funded

Project Thresholds:

Bid-ready Plans and Specifications

Bid-Ready plans and specifications* required for public facilities and barrier removal projects with construction costs $> \$100k$

Design development drawings required for those projects and playground/park projects with construction costs of $> \$25K$ but $< \$100k$

Project Thresholds: Public Social Services

Social Service only applications are not allowable for Mass CDBG

Social service projects may not exceed 20% of the total grant amount

DHCD's policy that 50% of funds must support economic security and self-sufficiency

Encouraged but not required for 2014

No more than 5 public services programs

Evaluation

Community Development Fund I

Community Wide Needs
Score – 35 points

Project Packet – 65 points,
plus 2 points if “regional”

Bonus Points – 10 points

Community Development Fund II

No Community Wide
Needs Score

Project Packet – 65 points,
plus 2 points if “regional”

Bonus Points – 10 points

Evaluation: Project Packets

65 points

Each project packet evaluated and scored on the following:

- Project Need (18)
- Community Involvement and Support (12)
- Project Feasibility (20)
- Project Impact (15)
 - CDF projects must meet 39 out of 65 points to be considered fundable (Except PSS)
 - Planning activity packets will be scored using Project Need and Project Impact only and must receive at least half the points for each
 - Public Service packets will be evaluated on information contained in the project description and will be treated as pass/fail – See application guidance

Project Need – 18 points

- Define need (s) to be addressed – Target Area
- Why is this project important?
- Provide/document evidence of the degree of severity of need/problem – narrative should relate to documentation
- Who is affected population and why presently not served or underserved?
- Identify/describe the project area/facility and why this facility or area is adversely affected

Community Involvement and Support – 12 points

- Process used to select project, how this was responsive to an expressed community need; Document outreach efforts
- Document involvement of beneficiaries/ community in planning and development
- Define process to maintain involvement of beneficiaries

Project Feasibility – 20 points

- Provide/document demand
- Status of design
- Site Control (n/a for HR)
- Describe/document other funds
- Describe/document ER/permits
- Identify/describe procurement
- Roles and responsibilities, internal controls
- Past accomplishments/Capacity
- Describe/identify milestones and timeframe

Project Impact – 15 points

- Impact on identified needs – Target Area
- Measurable improvements
- Direct and indirect outcomes
- Quantitative & Qualitative measures

Bonus Points – 10 points

Multiple Activity - 5 points

- ❖ Describe relationship of activities

Non-CDBG funded projects – 5 points

- ❖ Be sure to document properly

Helpful Hints (and reminders)

- Read the One Year Plan
- One packet per project
- Page Limit - 6 pages for scored responses/ 3 pages for planning and PSS project descriptions
- Income surveys can't be more than 3 years old
- Slum & Blight inventory guidance – don't create your own criteria
- Public Hearing – read instructions!
- No changes/additions will be accepted after the application deadline
- Barrier Removal - scope limited to barrier removal
- Bid-ready plans and specifications* for all public facilities and architectural barrier removal projects with construction costs over \$100,000
- **READ THE APPLICATION GUIDANCE!!**

Additional Considerations

- Regional applicants must comply with all requirements as individual applicants
- Applicants with a CWN of 25 or 26 that are participating in a regional application must identify whether they are participating as a CDF I or CDF II applicant. Attach statement in miscellaneous attachments of forms page.
- Applications will not be considered “regional” if the only activity taking place in more than one of the communities is public social services
- No single community may receive more than \$1M in CDF I, CDF II or Mini-Entitlement grant funds from FY 2014 awards
- No single community may receive more than \$1.35 million over a 2-year period
- Follow guidance. Policy needs to be clear.

Attachments

- Attach documents where they belong
- Attach documents only where they belong
- Attached document names - NO SYMBOLS – Make sure names are consistent
- Appendix list if many attachments
- Hyper Links – Not recommended
- Review attachment requirements in Application Guidance



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DHCD

**Division of Community Services
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 300
Boston, MA 02114**

Phone: 617.573.1400

Fax: 617.573.1460

www.mass.gov/dhcd/



Department of Housing and
Community Development

Application (RFP) Training

CDF I, CDF II, EDF and ME
application types



Login Page

Login with your
Username and
Password.



Department of Housing and Community Development

GMS Home

Welcome to IntelliGrants™...

Welcome to the State of Massachusetts's CDBG Grant Management System. This system was designed to help both the State and the State's grantees effectively organize and manage grant-related information.

Local user access:

- Step 1 - Each grant community must designate an Authorized Official.
- Step 2 - The DHCD will validate only the Authorized Official. Once DHCD has done this, local users may proceed with Step 3.
- Step 3 - The Authorized Official is responsible for defining the roles/responsibilities of local users of the system. A local users will click on the "New User" link (shown to the right), and enter his or her contact information including a user name and password. The local Authorized Official will then validate those individuals.

Help:

CDBG Program issues such as the type of information required on data screens, forms, origin of information, compliance requirements, etc. should be addressed to the community's assigned program or fiscal representative by phone or email. Users seeking assistance with technical, system issues, access, navigation and other general questions may call 617-573-1404 (Training/Technical Assistance desk) or 617-573-1418 (System Administrator).

Read Me First:

Before you access this system you should first [review the system requirements](#).

Additional guides for downloading:

- [New User Registration Guide](#)
- [New User Activating Guide for CEOs](#)

Login

Username

Password

[New User?](#) [Forgot Password?](#)

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Home Page

Select the **View Opportunities** button below to see what is available to your organization.

Select the **Open Inbox** button below to open your system message inbox

Select the **Open Tasks** button below to view your active tasks.

dhcd Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development

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SHOW HELP

Welcome AO
Authorized Official
[Change Picture](#)

Instructions:
Select the **SHOW HELP** button above for detailed instructions on the following.
> Applying for an Opportunity
> Using System Messages
> Understanding your Tasks
> Managing your awarded grant

Hello AO, please choose an option below.

View Available Opportunities
You have 11 Opportunities available.
Select the **View Opportunities** button below to see what is available to your organization.

VIEW OPPORTUNITIES 1

My Inbox
You have 12 new messages.
Select the **Open Inbox** button below to open your system message inbox.

OPEN INBOX 2

My Tasks
You have 9 new tasks.
You have 1 tasks that are critical.
Select the **Open Tasks** button below to view your active tasks.

OPEN TASKS 3

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Opportunities

To apply for an item listed below, select the **Apply Now** button below each description.

This page will give you a list of all potential applications available for your agency.

Clicking the **Apply Now** button will begin the application.



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Opportunities

To apply for an item listed below, select the **Apply Now** button below each description.

CDBG-NSP for Town of Holbrook
Offered By:
MA DHCD

CDBG-NSP Period:
02/01/2009-12/31/2010

Description:
CDBG-NSP

[APPLY NOW](#)

Community Development Fund I 2008 for Town of Holbrook
Offered By:
MA DHCD

Request For Proposal Period:
not set

Description:
Community Development Fund I

[APPLY NOW](#)

Community Development Fund I 2010 for Town of Holbrook
Offered By:
MA DHCD

Request For Proposal Period:
11/01/2009-12/31/2010


Description:
Community Development Fund I

[APPLY NOW](#)

Agreement Page

Are you sure you want to create this item?

Clicking the “**I Agree**” or “**I Do Not Agree**” buttons will continue the process of starting/ending the application.



The screenshot shows the dhcd Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development website. The header includes the dhcd logo and a navigation bar with links: Home, Pre-Apps, RFPs, Grants, Claims, QPRs, EDF Loans, NSP, On-Site Monitoring Reports, and Single Audit Reviews. A secondary navigation bar contains links: Reports, Administration, Training Materials, Organization(s), Profile, and Logout. Below the navigation bar is a "Back" button with a red circular icon. The main heading is "Agreement" in a large, dark red font. Below the heading is the text "Please make a selection below to continue." followed by a horizontal line. The question "Are you sure you want to create this item?" is displayed. Below the question are two buttons: "I AGREE" and "I DO NOT AGREE". A red arrow points to the "I DO NOT AGREE" button. At the bottom of the page, it says "Powered by IntelliGrants™" on the left and "© Copyright 2000-2010 Agate Software, Inc." on the right.

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Agreement

Please make a selection below to continue.

Are you sure you want to create this item?

I AGREE I DO NOT AGREE

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Please select from an option below. For detailed instruction about each option, select the **SHOW HELP** button.

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| | Request For Proposal | Town of Holbrook | Authorized Official | Application In Process | 1/15/2011 11:00:00 AM |

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RFP Form Menu

This list page gives you an overview of available forms for each RFP.

After saving a form without any errors this page will have a paper and pencil icon.

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Example:



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| | Program Income Certification Form | | AO Holbrook2 9/17/2010 1:12:00 PM | AO Holbrook2 9/17/2010 1:14:23 PM |
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Component Selection



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Modified By: Holbrook2, AO on 9/17/2010 11:36:02 AM
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PROGRAM COMPONENT SELECTION

| Selected Program Component | Name |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction Activities | <input type="text" value="test test 1"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation Activities | <input type="text" value="test test 2"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services Activities | <input type="text" value="test test 3"/> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Activities | <input type="text" value="test test 5"/> |

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Packet Pages

After clicking on an individual packet page (i.e....Construction Packet, Public Service Packet, Rehabilitation Packet, etc...) The Related Pages will become available at the bottom, In the Related Pages section of the page.


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|  | Program Delivery - Part A - Personnel, Fringe Benefits (Construction) | | AO Holbrook2 9/17/2010 10:53:33 AM | |
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|  | Competitive Questions (Construction) | | AO Holbrook2 9/17/2010 11:25:39 AM | |
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Examine Related Items

Select the **View Related Items** button below to view see related items such as claims, messages, etc.


[VIEW RELATED ITEMS](#)



Perform Administrative Tasks

Select the **View Administrative Tasks** button below to perform actions such as completing a review, generating a contract, requesting modifications, etc.

[VIEW ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS](#)

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Status Options

On the Request for Proposal Menu – Status Options page, you have a list of all status' possible to change at the moment.

To change the status, click the “Apply Status” button below the desired outcome.



Department of Housing and Community Development

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Request For Proposal Menu - Status Options

Select a button below to execute the appropriate status push.

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Possible Statuses

APPLICATION SUBMITTED

[APPLY STATUS](#) 

APPLICATION CANCELLED

[APPLY STATUS](#) 

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Global Errors

After Clicking “Application Submitted”, you will be taken to a Global Errors Page asking you to “Please review this page for accuracy”.

(This message may show up multiple times asking you to review different pages.)



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Global Errors

The following errors have been identified.
Please select each link below to navigate to the appropriate page to correct the errors.

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 Information populated on this page is derived from other pages that were changed. Please review this page for accuracy.
[Cover Page](#)

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Agreement Page

After all Global Errors have been cleared you will be taken to an Agreement page. If necessary, fill out the text box. When you are satisfied click on the “I Agree” button.



The screenshot shows the web interface of the Department of Housing and Community Development. At the top, there is a header with the 'dhcd Massachusetts' logo and the department name. Below the header is a navigation bar with buttons for Home, Pre-Apps, RFPs, Grants, Claims, QPRs, EDF Loans, NSP, On-Site Monitoring Reports, and Single Audit Reviews. A secondary navigation bar contains links for Reports, Administration, Training Materials, Organization(s), Profile, and Logout. The main content area has a 'Back' button with a red location pin icon. The title 'Agreement' is displayed in a large, dark red font. Below the title, a message states 'Please make a selection below to continue.' followed by a horizontal line. The text 'I agree that the information provided in this Application is accurate.' is shown. Below this, a prompt says 'If you would like to include notes about this status change, please supply them below.' followed by a large text input box. A character count '0 of 2000' is visible below the input box. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'I AGREE' and 'I DO NOT AGREE'. A red arrow points to the 'I DO NOT AGREE' button. The footer contains the text 'Powered by IntelliGrants™' on the left and '© Copyright 2000-2010 Agate Software, Inc.' on the right.

dhcd
Massachusetts

Department of Housing and
Community Development

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Agreement

Please make a selection below to continue.

I agree that the information provided in this Application is accurate.

If you would like to include notes about this status change, please supply them below.

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Post Submission

The document's status will be changed to "Application Submitted".



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SHOW HELP

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Request For Proposal Menu

Please select from an option below. For detailed instruction about each option, select the **SHOW HELP** button.

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Post Submission

Please note:

That after submitting the document you no longer have the ability to edit or delete pages within.

(The save button will be visible but, grayed out.)

You can view a printer friendly version of the form and add notes.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the dhcd Massachusetts website. The header includes the dhcd logo and the text "Department of Housing and Community Development". Below the header is a row of green buttons: Home, Pre-Apps, RFPs, Grants, Claims, QPRs, EDF Loans, NSP, On-Site Monitoring Reports, and Single Audit Reviews. To the right of these buttons is a row of links: Reports, Administration, Training Materials, Organization(s), Profile, and Logout. Below these links is a row of blue buttons: SAVE, DELETE, PRINT VERSION, ADD NOTE, MARK AS COMPLETE, CHECK GLOBAL ERRORS, and SHOW HELP.



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Modified By: Holbrook2, AO on 9/21/2010 10:56:53 AM

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